

AC 44/80(1) RYDE
BOROUGH



OF RYDE, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT

for 1951

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1951.

(As constituted at 17th May, 1951).

The Mayor — Councillor W. A. Christy, J.P., C.C.

Alderman Russell (<i>Chairman</i>)	Councillor Matthews
Councillor Evans (<i>Vice-Chm.</i>)	Councillor Ramage
Alderman Chiverton	Councillor Slinn
Alderman Jackson	Councillor Sutton
Councillor Draper	Councillor Way
Councillor Feakes	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1951.

Medical Officer of Health : D. WARREN BROWNE,†*
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : S. DUNMORE,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary }
Inspector : L. N. JORDAN,† M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.

Clerk : Miss D. G. Boyce.

* Part time Officer.

† Salary Contribution by Exchequer Grants.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
5 LIND STREET,
RYDE, I.W.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the year 1951. As before, it includes an appendix by your Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Vital Statistics—(*tabulated on Page 4*).

The estimated population increased by seventy to a total of 19,810. The Live Birth Rate showed a slight but encouraging rise from 13.1 to 13.3 per 1,000 resident population. The Still Birth Rate increased to 25.8 per 1,000 births (22.7 in 1950), which is not significant in view of the low actual total. The Comparative Death Rate dropped slightly from 11.2 to 11.0, which compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales of 12.5.

Of the 307 deaths in the Borough, 180 were due to cardiovascular diseases, 44 to cancer, 4 to tuberculosis, and 3 to accidents.

It is interesting to note that of the 44 deaths from cancer, seven were due to cancer of the lung, i.e. nearly 16 per cent. of the total. Of these seven deaths, six occurred in males. The total number of deaths from cancer of the lung in the Island as a whole were 27, of which 24 were males. Recent research in this country and in the United States indicates very clearly that not only has cancer of the lung increased very considerably during the last thirty years, but that this increase is mainly amongst tobacco-smokers. The relationship between smoking and cancer of the lung is very significant—so much so that the statistics would, if made known to the public, stimulate many smokers to give up tobacco. (Some of the investigators carrying out this statistical research started the work as confirmed tobacco-addicts, but as a result of their findings they were non-smokers when they published their report.)

Housing.

A steady increase in the number of new houses has relieved many of the worst cases of distress amongst the population of the Borough. Each year, relentlessly, more of the older houses are becoming unfit, due partly to deterioration on account of the inability of the owners to pay the cost of repairs out of rent.

Many families to-day are living in flats and flatlets converted from large houses, often sharing cooking and lavatory accommodation. Living under such conditions understandably imposes a strain on the occupants, not least amongst the causes being noise from other flats—noise from radios, crying children, etc., leading to friction between neighbours, loss of sleep by children, and general irritation of all concerned. It is unfortunate that in even the newest post-war semi-detached and terraced houses, and particularly in flats, there is little attempt to effect sound-insulation.

Infectious Diseases.

The total number of notified diseases increased from 155 in 1950 to 700 in 1951. Measles accounted for 514 cases (110 in 1950) and whooping-cough (which is more accurately called pertussis, because by no means all cases "whoop") increased from 18 to 175. Thanks to modern drugs, not one case died, and only 17 had to be admitted to hospital: not many years ago, such outbreaks would have caused many deaths, particularly amongst the infants.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the Borough, and only one case of food poisoning.

Diphtheria was again absent, but it would be indeed unwise to assume that there is no longer any danger from this disease. Ryde has the unhappy distinction of being the least protected town in the Island, even though facilities for free inoculation are available at the Welfare Clinics and from the private doctors.

Tuberculosis.

There has been little change in the incidence of tuberculosis. Four deaths resulted from the disease, this low figure being due to early diagnosis and to the use of modern drugs.

It may be noted that cancer of the lung caused more deaths than did tuberculosis, which is a complete reversal of the pre-war situation.

Cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, not all of which are notified, could be reduced very considerably were children to be given only T.T. or heat-treated milk (preferably T.T. milk which is also heat-treated). It is sometimes argued that the consumption of infected milk gives children a resistance to the disease—surely a most dangerous procedure! Controlled and measured inoculation with B.C.G. vaccine, as used so successfully in France and Scandinavia for many years is now available for protecting vulnerable subjects, and is infinitely preferable to the hazardous "protection" given by infected milk.

Were a water-supply to be suspected of contamination by tubercle bacilli, there would no doubt be a public outcry. How different is the attitude of the public, which accepts untreated non-designated milk without demur.

Food Sampling.

This is carried out by the County Council, as the appropriate Food and Drugs Authority, and is detailed elsewhere.

The many regulations dealing with adulteration of foodstuffs, and with the authorised amount of preservatives and chemicals which may be included with foodstuffs, make sombre reading. There are few foodstuffs to-day which have neither added preservatives, or, in the case of vegetables and cereals, which have not been grown on land fertilised by chemicals other than natural manures, nor which have been treated with chemical weed-killers and insecticides.

There is a growing demand from knowledgeable quarters for a return to foodstuffs grown under natural conditions, and which are marketed without added chemicals. Agenised flour, which is known to be noxious and harmful to dogs but which is alleged to be harmless to man, has already been banned in the United States of America: in this country search is being made for an alternative "improver" for our flour.



Water supplies which are deficient in fluorine are blamed, rightly or wrongly, for decay in teeth. Samples of Island water have been analysed for fluorine and found to be deficient, but it is by no means certain that the addition of fluorine would improve the dental state of our population. Dental experts claim that the use of a tooth-brush immediately after every meal, particularly in the case of children, will prevent dental decay in most cases.

National Assistance Act.

No fresh cases have arisen under which application has had to be made to the Court for the removal of any person to a place of care and protection.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DONALD WARREN BROWNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics.

(1) GENERAL.

Area, in acres	(as at 31/3/52)	7,876
Number of inhabited houses		
according to rate books	„	5,981
Rateable Value	„	£163,525
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	„	£655
Rainfall		46.01 inches
Sunshine		1764.9 hours

(2) VITAL.

Population (Registrar's Figure)	19,820
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident	
population	13.3
Comparative factor (births)	1.05
Comparative Birth Rate	14.0
Live Birth Rate England and Wales	15.5
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (Still and Live Births)	25.8
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	15.5
Comparative factor (deaths)	0.71
Comparative Death Rate	11.0
Death Rate England and Wales	12.5
Deaths from Puerperal causes :—	
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still Births)—	
From Sepsis	Nil
From other causes	3.7

DEATH RATE :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	22.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live	
births	—
Death from Measles (All ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	44

Prevalence of Infectious and other Diseases.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	—	—	—
Measles	514	16	—
Whooping Cough	175	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—
	700	20	—

Age at Date of Notification.

AGE.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Meningococcal Infection	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	Measles	Whooping Cough	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Malaria	Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 3	1	—	—	—	—	—	37	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	70	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 10	1	—	—	—	—	—	265	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 20	—	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS . .	3	—	—	1	1	—	514	175	1	4	—	1	—	—	—

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

(a)	Total number of outbreaks	..	..	..	..	None
(b)	Number of single cases (cause unknown)	..	..	..	..	1
(c)	Number of deaths	..	..	..	..	None

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases Return from Head Teachers of Schools.

Mumps	..	..	..	..	206
Chicken Pox	..	..	..	..	58
German Measles	..	..	..	..	3
Influenza	..	..	..	..	32
Influenzal Colds	..	..	..	..	42
					341

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.

					Age under 5 years	5—15 years
Percentage of the child population it is considered were immunised at 31.12.51					40.8	54.4

(This estimate includes, so far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere.)

Tuberculosis, 1951.

AGE PERIODS.	Total	NEW CASES				Total	DEATHS			
		Pulmonary M F		Non-Pulmonary M F			Pulmonary M F		Non-Pulmonary M F	
Under .. 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 „ 10	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 „ 15	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 „ 20	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 „ 25	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 „ 35	5	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 „ 45	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
45 „ 55	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 „ 65	4	2	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
65 „ 75	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
75 and over ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	†28	14	9	3	2	4	3	1	—	—

†This total includes three transfers from the mainland, one case in which the death return gave the first information, and one odd case who had left the Island and returned.

Factories Act, 1937.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1951, for the Borough of Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	32	28	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	110	64	8	—
(III) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. (Excluding outworkers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
Total ..	142	92	8	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	13	13	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	1	3	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	1	—	1	—
Total	14	19	—	5	—

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ryde Borough Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my second Annual Report as your Senior Sanitary Inspector, and, following last year's procedure, my report is again, by permission of the Medical Officer of Health, set out separately.

The layout of last year's report was successful and generally approved, and this year's will therefore be presented on the same lines.

The work of the Department was carried out by my Assistant, Mr. Jordan and myself, with Miss Boyce doing the large amount of office work. Towards the end of the year, Mr. Jordan was absent from duty through ill health, and this brought about a reduction in routine inspections of premises normally carried out in the months between the holiday seasons.

The report is set out in four sections as follows :—

Section I—Sanitary Circumstances.

Complaints.

369 complaints were received during the year, a decrease of 19 on the previous year.

Water Supply.

Under the I.W. Water Board Order, 1950, made under the Water Act, 1945, the I.W. Water Board took over the Water Undertaking from the Ryde Borough Council on the 1st April, 1951.

Prior to the Board's formation, regular bacteriological sampling was carried out by the Borough Surveyor, and he continued this duty until the end of the year. 36 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and 4 for chemical analysis. All were reported satisfactory.

Drainage.

The bulk of the Borough's drainage is discharged through four main outfalls into the Solent. There is a small well-laid-out sewage plant which adequately and efficiently deals with the sewage of Havenstreet village, but the plant at St. Helens is obsolete and unsatisfactory, and plans are being prepared by the Borough Surveyor for the eventual construction of a new plant.

The main trunk sewers of the Borough, which carry the sewage and the bulk of the surface water are considered by the Borough Surveyor to be reaching the stage when they are easily overloaded, and serious consideration will have to be given to a comprehensive scheme for the construction of new sewers and outfalls, or the enlargement of the existing trunk sewers.

In view of the frequent occasions on which septic tanks of existing properties in unsewered districts give rise to a nuisance owing to the difficulty in satisfactorily disposing of the effluent into the clay sub-soil, the Borough Surveyor is assisting me by requiring for new buildings, where effluent disposal is doubtful, watertight cesspools which can be emptied as necessary by the Council's mechanical emptier.

As and when private building recommences in unsewered districts to any extent, I do hope the Council will keep pace by laying or extending sewers, rather than permitting large scale construction of septic tanks and cesspools which can never work with 100% efficiency in the clay subsoil.

Public Cleansing.

This service is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. A weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse was maintained throughout the Borough during the year. A daily service for the collection of trade refuse in the main streets was carried out. A total of approximately 5,000 tons of refuse was collected and disposed of by "controlled tipping" at Nettlestone. Regular treatment of the tip by the Rodent Officer ensured no nuisance from vermin, and regular spraying of the tip surface during the fly-breeding season kept this pest under control.

The standard of dustbins of premises cannot be considered satisfactory, but the Government ban on the manufacture of galvanised dustbins has been in force throughout the year. When the ban is lifted, I intend to resume service of informal notices upon occupiers, and am hopefully confident that co-operation in the provision of new dustbins where necessary will be as good as in the past. The present legal position as the person responsible for provision of dustbins is so confused that I would not be prepared to recommend more than informal action. The only certain remedy at present would be for the Council to take over the responsibility for the provision of all refuse receptacles, as a rate charge.

Infectious Disease.

The number of cases of infectious disease requiring any form of disinfection has continued to be very small, and in only three instances has disinfection been carried out.

The Council's steam disinfecting plant was completely overhauled by the makers early in the year, and is now an efficient working unit.

Caravans and Camping.

The number of licensed caravans stationed in the Borough remains satisfactorily low, there being four, as compared with six licensed last year. We have continued to discourage the use of caravans for all-the-year-round living purposes, and consider them sub-standard dwellings for this purpose.

There were four small licensed caravan camping sites, where approximately 25 caravans in all were stationed and only occupied between 1st March and 31st October. One of these caravan camping sites was licensed but was not developed during the year. A small amount of camping under canvas took place at these sites, and, in addition, two sites at St. Helens are licensed for tentage camping. All these licensed sites are equipped with adequate water supply, water carriage drainage, and, in some instances, kitchens, shower baths, etc. They have been well managed, and proved generally popular to some 800 persons each week during the season.

Land owners have not allowed much land to be used by random campers, and unlicensed sites have in the main been used for a short period by organised units, i.e. Scouts, Guides and schools. At the height of the season approximately 500 such persons were under canvas and were not a problem.

Early in the year the Medical Officers of Health and all the Sanitary Inspectors of the Island held several joint meetings and also interviewed interested organizations, and then produced a Code of Camping which they recommended all Island Authorities to adopt in order that there should be a uniformity of regulations and standards of camping throughout the Island. The Code was adopted by the Ryde Borough Council in June, 1951, and all persons interested in camping were supplied with a copy.

We have in the Borough a large well-known Holiday Camp, consisting of communal hall, chalets, and all the usual facilities, which caters for approximately 700 campers during the season. Constructional work has commenced on a second such camp, which, when completed, will accommodate another 400 campers.

Verminous Premises.

36 premises were treated to destroy vermin. Only one of these was a bug infestation, the remainder being treated for flies, fleas and cockroaches. The cockroach infestations have been mainly in food premises, and I am pleased that occupiers are seeking assistance to rid them of a nuisance so often tolerated or ignored by them in the past.

Shop Act, 1950.

At the end of the year there were 435 shops on the register, varying from the large stores in the main shopping centre to small family or household establishments. 225 inspections were made and one contravention was found and rectified by service of informal notice.

Factories Act, 1937.

There were 141 premises on the register, comprising 110 power factories and 32 non-power factories. Only two factories employ around 50 persons, the remainder comprising small businesses. 61 inspections were made, and 10 contraventions found and remedied by informal notice.

Swimming Pools.

The only swimming pool in the Borough, at a holiday camp, was maintained and operated satisfactorily. A temporary hold-up in supply of chlorine gas was remedied after strong representations to the suppliers. The pool was again also used by the local schools. The water of the pool was regularly sampled for bacteriological examination, and found at all times to be satisfactory.

Rats and Mice.

These rodents are dealt with by the County Rodent Officer and his staff, who operate under the control of the I.W. Joint Rodent Destruction Committee, comprising representatives and Sanitary Inspectors of each Local Authority.

During the year, 936 properties, comprising 75 Council properties, 820 dwelling houses, 4 agricultural premises, and 87 business and industrial premises, were inspected, resulting in the discovery of 4 major and 153 minor rat infestations and 113 mice infestations, which were duly dealt with.

Local people have now become aware of the efficiency of the rodent destruction service, and have not hesitated to request the assistance of the Officer.

Section 1—Sanitary Circumstances

Summary of Inspections and Visits.

Complaints	137
Public Health Act	112
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	82
Interviews with Owners, Agents Builders, etc.	240
Work in Progress	186
Insanitary Houses and Rooms	2
Verminous Premises or Rooms	36
Infectious Diseases	13
Drainage Inspections and Tests	275
Cesspools, Sewage Works, etc.	40
Tents, Vans and Sheds	104
Smoke Nuisances	1
Stables and Piggeries	31
Factories, with Power	48
Factories, without Power	13
Outworkers' Rooms	4
Places of Entertainment, etc.	4
Shops Acts	225
Schools	4
Vacant Land and Dumps	53
Swimming Pools	4
Offensive Trades	9
Foreshores, Streams, etc.	22
Common Yards and Passages	4
Dangerous Structures	16
National Assistance Act—Persons in need of care and attention	6
Miscellaneous Visits	135

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Drains Cleared of Obstructions	35
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed	31
Drains Connected to Sewers	2

Inspection Chambers Provided or Repaired	..	..	15
Cesspools Cleansed or Repaired	..	..	4
Disposal Plants Installed	..	..	1
W.C's Cleansed	..	..	3
Offensive Accumulations Removed	..	..	12
Animals—Nuisances Abated	..	..	4
Dirty Premises Cleansed	..	..	4
Cellars Cleared after Flooding	..	..	1
Contraventions Remedied in Factories and Workplaces	..	10	
Contraventions Remedied in Shops	..	..	1
Contraventions Remedied in Stables and Piggeries	..	3	
Dangerous Structures Made Safe	..	..	3

Section II—Housing.

During 1951, the housing problem, as it affects the Health Department, has shown a little improvement, but the new houses built (29) have made no impression on the Housing Manager's List of Applicants, which contains approximately the same number as at the end of 1950. 127 new applications were added to the register during the year, and about the same number were removed for various reasons. The Council's housing programme does little to help the Health Department, and the Housing Committee, because of the formidable waiting list of applicants without housing accommodation, are most reluctant to offer housing accommodation to re-house families which should be rehoused from individual unfit houses, structurally dangerous houses, basement flats, and properties which for structural or other reasons are dangerous to the health of the occupants.

I would like to stress again what I said in the first paragraph of my 1950 Report, and I feel that the time must not be far away when the Government direct local authorities to re-survey the houses in their districts, and actively to re-commence the removal of slum standard properties, also revision of the present Rent Acts must come to make it possible for both Sanitary Inspectors and owners realistically to approach the problem of the proper repair of sub-standard dwelling-houses, capable of being made fit in all respects to be useful units of accommodation for a reasonable number of years. Failure to do this must see the steady deterioration of rent-controlled cottage property to a state when there is no alternative but to make Demolition Orders, and the resultant demand to the Housing Committee to allocate a high percentage of their new houses to re-house displaced families must follow.

During the year one Closing Order in respect of part of a building was made. It was also necessary to take action under Section 58, Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of three properties considered to be dangerous to the occupants, brought about by movements of the clay subsoil with resultant fractures in the walls, etc.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	..	174
Public Health Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	189
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Public Health Act	..	405					
Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	44

Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Housing Acts	..	45
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	.. ..	230
Water Samples	.. .. .	3
Overcrowding	.. .. .	10
Miscellaneous	.. .. .	72

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Chimneys and Stacks Repaired	.. .. .	8
Ceiling Plaster Repaired	.. .. .	12
Coppers Provided or Repaired	.. .. .	1
Dampness Abated	.. .. .	48
Damp-Proof Courses Provided	.. .. .	2
Doors Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	19
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	22
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	9
Floors Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	20
Food Stores Provided	.. .. .	3
Handrails Fixed in Staircases	.. .. .	1
Lighting Provided	.. .. .	2
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	35
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	5
Rooms Cleansed and Re-decorated	.. .. .	15
Sinks Provided	.. .. .	9
Sashcords Provided or Repaired	.. .. .	7
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	3
Ventilation Provided	.. .. .	3
Walls (External) Repointed or Repaired	.. .. .	40
Walls (Internal) Repaired	.. .. .	38
Windows Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	14
Water Supplies Repaired	.. .. .	1
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	.. .. .	3
Yards and Passages Paved or Repaired	.. .. .	1
New W.C's Provided	.. .. .	6
W.C. Compartments Repaired	.. .. .	10
W.C. Pedestals Provided	.. .. .	9
W.C. Cisterns Provided or Repaired	.. .. .	10
New Dustbins Provided	.. .. .	2
Woodwork Repaired	.. .. .	6

Section III—Inspection and Supervision of Food

According to the Public Health Department records, there were 263 food premises operating in the Borough, excluding licensed premises.

Clean Food Campaign.

The clean food campaign inaugurated last year has shown steady results through the year, and the general standard of hygiene of food premises has been gratifying. The trade generally complied readily with any notices issued, and have put into effect pleasing improvements, including refrigerated display cabinets for cooked meats, poultry, etc., an open-fronted fish shop converted entirely to refrigerated display cabinets, a refrigerated butcher's display slab, and the protection of displayed foods with transparent covers.

Hotel and restaurant kitchens have been given special attention, and structurally they are now generally satisfactory, and, in cases where the hygiene standards have not been satisfactory, it has usually been the fault of the chef, who, probably being a seasonal employee, is not greatly interested in the hygiene reputation of the establishment. I consider it would be a good idea if every chef, before being appointed, was required to produce a certificate that he has received a recognised course of training in kitchen hygiene: the standard he requires is quickly adopted by the employees under his control.

Meat Inspection, etc.

There was no slaughtering of animals carried out within the Borough, all animals being slaughtered and inspected elsewhere prior to delivery and sale. Routine inspections and condemnations of meat have, however, been carried out.

The following quantities of meat were condemned as unfit :—

Meat (Imported)	..	..	..	..	2 cwts. 88½ lb.
Meat (Home Killed)	..	..	..	..	6 cwts. 64¼ lb.
Poultry ..	..	..	..	..	257¼ lbs.
Fish ..	..	..	..	..	10 stones.

The imported meat condemned included a quarter of beef, from a mainland cold-store, heavily contaminated with rat 'droppings.' A request was immediately made to the W.M.S.A. to investigate the possibility of rat infestation at their storage premises.

Condemned Foods, etc.

Again this year a large quantity of tinned and packet foods have been condemned and destroyed. The principal reason for condemnation was due to cans being blown and contents putrified. A considerable quantity of cans are damaged in transit through rough handling and inferior packing, and have to be destroyed.

In common with other local authorities, during the summer months a considerable quantity of imported tinned hams were condemned, and local purchasers were advised to only buy very limited quantities of this tinned ham at any one time. Approximately £300 (customers' price) worth was condemned during the year. The Ministry of Food were notified when any particular brand was at fault.

During the spring, I decided to have samples of winkles collected and examined, from various points on the Western foreshore. The results were unfavourable, and, as a precautionary measure, fishermen who collected winkles from this area were persuaded to collect elsewhere, and notices were placed on the foreshore advising the public not to collect shellfish.

The following items of food were found to be unfit for human consumption, and condemned :—

Cooked Meats	37½ lb.
Tomatoes	336 „
Bacon	52 „
Dates	44 „
Cheese	12¼ „
Biscuits	93 „
Boiled Sweets	7 „
Meat, Milk, Fish, Vegetables, Fruit, etc.—	
	1,537 tins, jars and bottles.
Cereals	56 8 oz. packets.

Food Analysis.

29 samples of foods were purchased by the County Council sampling officers, and submitted for analysis, as follows :—

MILK. Eighteen. 5 unsatisfactory.

One watered from retailer was followed by one watered from his supplier. The supplier was cautioned.

One informal sample from retailer was watered. This was followed up by a formal sample which was watered. This retailer laid an information against his supplier who was fined £10.

One from retailer contained slight amount of added water.

Caution.

OLIVE OIL. One.

LEMON BUTTER AND HONEY SPREAD. One.

This product was a genuine Lemon Curd. Objection taken to label and description. Ministry of Food informed, and subsequently the manufacturer agreed to change description.

BEER. One.

PEPPER. One.

This pepper was genuine but had an abnormal odour, possibly due to having been packed near spices. Manufacturers informed.

ICE CREAM. Three.

One 6% deficient in fat. Manufacturer approached. Deficiency remedied.

PEPPERMINTS. One.

RICH WHITE WINE—PORT STYLE. One.

RUM. One.

GIN. One.

Milk Supplies.

This Department is now only responsible for milk distribution within the Borough. There were 9 distributors registered, comprising a large company distributing pasteurised milks which are heat treated in the Newport Borough, and private distributors with businesses of

varying sizes. One unsatisfactory old dairy was withdrawn from use at my instigation, and the owners constructed a small new one to my design. Another dairyman has enlarged his premises, and is proceeding to install modern bottling and bottle-washing machinery.

The following registrations and licences were operative during the year :—

Registration as Distributor of Milk	..	..	..	9
Registration of Premises used as a Dairy..	..	..	..	8
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	..	..	..	8
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Accredited"	..	..	..	1
Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	..	..	..	6

Ice-Cream.

The popularity of ice-cream has continued to increase, and the makers of famous brands and several local Island manufacturers have competed with each other in persuading local shopkeepers to sell their products, with the result that at the end of the year the number of premises registered for storage and sale of ice-cream was 107, an increase of 18. The same two premises as last year are registered for the manufacture, storage and sale.

During the year 27 informal samples were taken for bacteriological examination (Methylene Blue Reduction Test), and the results were as follows :—

Grades	I	II	III	IV
	14	3	7	3

Bakehouses.

There were 21 bakehouses in the Borough at the end of the year. None is an underground bakehouse. One old premises has been withdrawn from use, and a new, well-equipped large bakehouse has been built. Two obsolete premises have been modernised. The majority of the bakehouses, however, are obsolete, and little or no real improvements have been put in hand for many years, and I should like to see all the local bakers prepare a modernization programme in respect of their bakehouses. I appreciate that all the work, because of expense, might not be done at one time, but in such cases it could be spread over several years.

Licensed Premises.

Following upon last year's successful procedure, a Sanitary Inspector accompanied the Police when the annual inspection of the 65 licensed premises in the Borough were made, prior to the annual licensing sessions.

The hygiene standard of the premises was generally very good, and called for no special action. In the past the few cellars still in use have been rather neglected, and these have now much improved. Two licensed premises require large-scale structural improvement, and plans have been approved for the necessary work, but to date the owners (and myself) have been unable to persuade the Ministry of Works to grant the necessary licences.

Details of Inspections, Visits, etc.

Complaints	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Interviews with Owners, Agents, Builders, etc.	..	..					160
Re-visits to Premises under Notice—Food and Drugs Act	..						67
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
Fishmongers and Poulterers	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Grocers and Other Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Dairy Farms	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Ice-Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Restaurants and Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	66
Hotels	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Food Enforcement	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Infestations	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Food Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	34

Contraventions Remedied in :—

Butchers' Premises	..	..	..	..	..	7
Food Premises Generally	..	..	..	..	..	60

Summary of Notices Served (Sections I, II, and III).

Public Health Act (Informal)	..	..	..	..	144
Public Health Act (Formal)	..	..	..	..	15
Dangerous Structures	..	..	..	..	4
Housing Act (Informal)	..	..	..	..	1
Housing Act (Formal)	..	..	..	..	—
Factories Act, Mechanical Power	..	..	..	..	8
Factories, Non-Mechanical	..	..	..	..	—
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	1
Food and Drugs Act	..	..	..	..	25
Milk and Dairies Regulations	..	..	..	..	1

Section IV—Miscellaneous.

In addition to the duties carried out by this Department in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935—51, the following duties are administered :—

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

38 premises were licensed for storage of petroleum spirit, and the total amount for which these licences were issued was 35,490 gallons. Three licences to store 240 gallons of petroleum mixtures were issued. £25 15s. 0d. in fees, was paid to the Local Authority for the above licences.

57 visits were made to the garages and petroleum stores for the purpose of ascertaining that the Act and Regulations were being complied with.

Shops Act—Closing Hours.

The department is responsible for the compliance with “ hours of closing ” by shops within the Borough, as required by the Shops Act, various Closing Orders and Orders made under Defence Regulation 60 A.B.

Hackney Carriages.

64 Hackney Carriages were licensed, and I am responsible for administering the Council's Byelaws made in respect of these vehicles. 175 inspections and visits were made. It is intended next year to require a higher standard of mechanical fitness, and proprietors will be required to produce certificates of road-worthiness before a hackney carriage licence is issued.

Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores.

In the early part of the year, requests were made to me by the Police, on several occasions, to assist them in investigations at premises of old metal dealers. During the year a new register, comprising 11 persons, has been compiled of local dealers in old metals and marine stores, and the Council have now made the local Police authorised officers, in addition to myself, in order that they may inspect registers, etc., when investigating metal thefts, without requiring my assistance.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. DUNMORE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.



FRED P. MELLISH,
PRINTERS,
RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.
